

*Serlo's Coffee House*

3

WAKED FILL

17

Dissected and Examined, &c.

17

N.

WITH A FULL  
CONFUTATION

O F

Mr CLUTTON's

New Hypothesis of Arsenick,

BEING A

Part of its COMPOSITION.

By a CHYMIST of London.

*Si populus vult decipi decipiatur.*

LONDON

Printed : And sold at Mr OSBORNE's at the Civet-  
Cat upon Snow-Hill. 1736.

[Price Six-Pence.]

To the Author of the True and Candid Relation, &c.

S I R,



YOU have very Disingenuously and Un-  
artfully too, I may say, insinuated to the  
World, that *Ratsbane*, or *Arsenick*, is in  
the Composition of *W*——*d's* Pill,  
without offering Proofs in anywise equal  
to your Uncharitable Charge.

And tho', Sir, it be far from me to encourage, or  
even Countenance such irregular Practice as that of  
Mr *W*——*d's*, yet I must do the Pill so much Justice,  
as to rescue it from your most inveterate and seem-  
ingly malicious and most probably false Charge.

*P. 23.* You are pleased to affirm with an Air un-  
becoming a Man of Modesty, that the *Pill* is made  
of the Five Dangerous Preparations of *Antimony*,  
which *p. 26.* you confirm, and say that it is out of all  
dispute, without mentioning the least Word or Sylla-  
ble of *Arsenick*. Fie, *Jos. fie.*

I Advise you, by Way of Justice, to clear all Phy-  
sicians from being any Ways concern'd in your Noto-  
rious Piece of Contradictions and Inconsistencies;  
and in Good Manners to ask Pardon of the Ladies,  
for recommending to them as a cleanly Piece of  
Chymistry. *p. 112.* any Experiments of *Arsenick*,  
which, *p. 107.* you say emits a Smoak, and stinks  
very offensively, and causes a Dryness in the Throat,  
and *p. 112.* a choaking, porracious Smell. *p. 107.*  
like Leeks.

A

Your's Philochymic.



Pillulæ Wardeanæ Dissec-  
tio & Examinatio Or  
Ward's Pill Dissected  
and Examined, &c.

Most Learned Doctor,



Otwitstanding our *English*  
Histories abound so much  
with the dismal Trage-  
dies, which have been  
acted by Empiricks and  
Mountebanks, in administring Medi-  
cines, whose Nature and Powers they  
understood not; yet has our giddy  
Nation, for this Year or two past,  
been as fond of Enthusiasts in Phy-  
B sic,

J: H:  
G:  
B. W.  
J. S.  
J. M.



fic, as ever they were of those in Religion; and Ignorance in Perfection seems to be a necessary Qualification for the Practice of Physic; though at the same Time I cannot conceive that the Delight which Men take in being cheated and cozen'd by such ignorant *Pretenders*, arises from any Principle in Nature which inclines them to it, but that it rather proceeds from the *Craft* and *Subtilty* of the *Impostors*, who are much more industrious in *deluding* the World, than the True Artists are in *undeceiving* it.

There is lately crept in amongst us an *Original* of this Kind, of an Amphibious Nature, who on the one Side, can shew Modesty enough to declare his Ignorance of the *Structure* of *Human Body*, of the *Rise* and *Cause* of Diseases, and of the *Materia Medica* in general; and Face enough on the other Side, to warrant the Cure of those Diseases, of which he himself has so openly declared his own *Ignorance*; and all this is to be effected by Virtue of a little Chymical Pill of  
his



his own *Preparation*, tho' confessedly not of his own *Invention*.

This little Chymical *Mercury* (according to Mr *W* ——— and his Agents) is able to dispatch more Business than a whole College of Physicians, and to *rectify* more Disorders of the Body, than all the rest of the whole *System* of Physic.

If an Emetic, a Cathartic, and a Sudorific, be all wanting at the same Time, this *Wonder working* Pill is always in Readiness, and can act in all *Capacities*, and will *Pump* the Stomach, *Rince* the Bowels, and instantly *disperse* all other noxious Humours, and make them dance thro' the Pores of the *Skin*.

If either *Acids* or *Alkalies* be predominant in the Body, it can act *alternately* and in either Shape, and be both *Sword* and *Scabbard*.

In short, if the Patient be *Old* or *Young*, *Hot* or *Cold*, *Weak* or *Strong*, *Male* or *Female*, this surprizing *Mirror* of Chymistry answers equally alike to all Intentions, and can readily conform to every *opposite* Symptom.

All *Europe* is astonished at its Virtues and Success, and Physicians all tremble, when they hear of its Approach; the Faculty at *Paris* rejoiced at its Departure, and Physicians in *England*, must shortly ride two on a Horse.

Its annual Cures are almost innumerable, for beside the vast Number in Foreign Countries, and in divers other Parts of *England*, upwards of two Thousand have been actually effected here in *London* (according to this Gentleman's Agents) as plainly appears by the Decrease of the last Yearly Bills of Mortality.

Hence it is (say they) that the Parliament of *Britain* are become so exceeding fond of it, and resolved to Purchase the Secret at any Price, and Publish it for the Common Good, the Preservation of Mens Lives.

Thus, Sir, is the Province of Physic frequently invaded in *England*, and to our great Shame be it said, that even Licences to Practice are granted from our Ecclesiastical Courts, to the most Ignorant and Illiterate, the very

Scum

*Scum and Dregs* of Mankind, a *Toleration* of *Assassines*, with a *Liberty* to make *Experiments* upon the *Weaker* and more *unwary* Part of the *World*.

But to give this *Gentleman* all the *Favour* that possibly I can; I will allow that a *Person*, wholly ignorant of the *Art* of *Physic*, may be possessed of good *Remedies*, and that a *Cure* may sometimes ensue upon the casual *Application* of them; but notwithstanding this accidental *Success*, there can be constantly expected no better *Performances* in *Physic* from that *Man's* unskilful *Administration*, than in *Music*, from a *Hand* altogether dull and injudicious, upon the well-tuned *Instruments* of a *Corelli* or a *Handel*.

In short, *Physic* cannot be administered without the evident *Destruction* of *Mens* *Lives*, except the *Physician* understands the *Nature* and *Force* of the *Remedy*, the *Constitution* and *Strength* of the *Patient*, and the *Nature* and *Motion* of the *Disease*. The *Time* and *Motion* of a *Disease* are of so great *Moment* in the *Giving* of *Physic*, that the very same *Remedy* which



which saved one Man's Life to Day, may in the same Disease have a quite different Effect, and kill another to Morrow ; this is the Reason that Physicians have taken such great Pains in distinguishing the Times of Diseases, and proportioning Rules and Remedies to them.

*Plutarch* in a particular Dialogue introduces *Socrates* and *Phedrius* arguing after this Manner.

*Socrat.* If any one should tell me, truly  
 ' I know how to apply such and such a  
 ' Remedy, with which I can, when I  
 ' please, make it Hot or Cold, Purge  
 ' or Vomit, or procure any other Eva-  
 ' cuation, upon the Understanding of  
 ' which, I profess myself a Physician,  
 ' and affirm that any Man instructed  
 ' with this Knowledge may be one.  
 ' What Answer do you think a sober  
 ' Man would return to him?

*Phedr.* Why none at all, but ask  
 ' him whether he likewise understood  
 ' to whom, and when, and in what  
 ' Proportion one of these Medicines  
 ' are to be given, of which, if he be  
 ' ignorant,

‘ ignorant, the Man must certainly be  
 ‘ mad, who upon the Score either of  
 ‘ Gleanings from Authors, or for hav-  
 ‘ ing been present at the Cures of  
 ‘ some Physicians, and understands no-  
 ‘ thing of the Art, thinks he is pre-  
 ‘ sently become a Physician.

*Illud Cavendum* (says that great Chy-  
 mist *Libavius*) *ne audaculi imperiti in*  
*Medicando, id adhibeant quod est medi-*  
*corum circumspectissimorum exercitatissimo-*  
*rumque; veluti si Essentia ex Sublimato*  
*Et Regulo fiat, si flos ex Antimonio, si*  
*Laudanum ex opio, tu qui imperitus es*  
*Methodi medendi Et imprudeus, nec tibi fa-*  
*cile nec aliis horum permitte usum cum teme-*  
*ritate; utut semel atque iterum forte possis,*  
*plus tamen deinceps peccare possis. Nam*  
*nobiles Medicina in manu Temerarii ho-*  
*minis, sunt ut Culter, vel fax ardens, in*  
*manu pueri aut dementis.*

Many Excellent, and in the Hands  
 of Artists, most safe Medicines have  
 suffered in their Credit, by falling into  
 the Hands of such Persons, who either  
 by overdosing, or not suiting them to  
 the Temper, Age and Sex of their Pa-  
 tients, have with them killed instead  
 of

of Curing. But I fear this Gentleman's will appear to be a Medicine, so far from being safe, that an ingenious Artist will not venture to use it.

' The Learned Dr *Castle*, (to whom  
' I am much indebted for what I here  
' say) tells us, that the Universal Me-  
' dicine of *Empiricks*, is usually some or  
' other ill Preparation of *Antimony* in  
' *Substance*, which if it chances not to  
' pass upwards or downwards, but  
' stick in the *Coats* of the Stomach,  
' or be entangled in some tough viscid  
' Matter, it being the Nature of that  
' Mineral to communicate a *Vomiting*  
' Quality after it has impregnated several  
' Infusions, no Wonder if laying  
' in the Stomach, it imparts continually  
' to the Juices which flow thither  
' out of the Mass of Blood, for a  
' *Menstruum* to dissolve the Meat, and  
' to those *Liquors* which are taken in  
' by the Mouth, an *Emetic* Virtue, 'till  
' the Patient has at last *Vomited* up  
' his Soul. That this Gentleman's is  
' somewhat of this Kind, I flatter myself  
' will appear by the following Ex-  
' periments.



But First, a Word or two to our poisonous Author, who to prove *Arsenick* to be in the Composition of *W—d's* Pill, has already most accurately declared it to be made of *Antimony*, without one Word of *Arsenick*. p. 111. chiefly of *Calcin'd Cobalt*, without either, *Antimony*, or *Arsenick*. p. 108. a Third of *Glass* of *Antimony*, near two Thirds of *Arsenick*, and a very small Part of *Cobalt* or *Zaffre*. p. 110. *Glass* of *Antimony* gr. 8. *Zaffre* gr. 1. *White Arsenick* gr. 8. p. 112. *Red Arsenick* pt. 8. *Glass* of *Antimony* pt. 8. *Calcin'd Cobalt* pt. 1. such are his *ipse dixits*, without the least Shadow of Proof.

P. 98. He concludes from the Bad Effects of the Pills, that there is something in them more poisonous than *Antimony*, and most probably, *Arsenick*; which p. 23. he declares to be the most Innocent of the Two, because it may be given, he says, even in a larger Quantity, without giving a greater Disturbance or endangering the Constitution. P. 97. he enumerates some of the dismal Effects of *W—d's* Pills, which he says were never known to be caused, by any Preparations of *Antimony*, as the bringing off the Hair and Nails, &c. For the Proof of which, he produces Two or Three Instances out of his Fifty Cases, which p. 97. he desires may not be credited, because he says, a few Instances may fail; and there are more than Ten to One against him, where none of those Effects have appeared; nor are those Effects even so much as mentioned in the general Account of the Effects of *Arsenick*, by any of those Ingenious Authors he has called in to his Assistance, as Dr *B'air*, Dr *Geoffray*, and Dr *Sthall*, he himself indeed offers an Instance for the Truth of which, he desires to be accepted as *Guarantee*, whose Word, according to the above-cited Quotations, ought not to be taken for one of *W—d's* Pills, which p. 26. he declares to be of no more Value than the 480th Part of a Penny. On the Contrary P. 99. in Dr *Blair's* Letter to Dr *Mead*, he has furnish'd us with two Instances of the very dangerous Effects of *Arsenick*, given both in a large and small Quantity,

as proves plainly it cannot be in *W—d's* Pill, since so small a Quantity as adhered only to the fine taper End of a Lady's Finger, probably not the tenth Part of a Grain, not only threw her down in a Deliquium on the Ground, but took away all her Senses, and rendered it extremely difficult for the Physician to save her Life; if therefore, this Gentleman has proved any Thing, it is that *Arsenick* is not contained in *W—d's* Pill, but on the other Hand, *Mercury*, from the Abuse of whose Preparations all those dismal Effects which he ascribes without Proof, to *Arsenick*, have been observed to proceed.

Yet this Gentleman is pleased to conclude *p. 114.* that he has given very clear Evidence, that these Pills have the worst of Poisons in their Composition, by the most P E R S P I C U O U S M A N N E R of seeing, by the Evidence of Feeling, Tasting, and Smelling, as well as by the direful Effects of them on Human Bodies; and lastly by Fire, discovering such *Pbænomena*, which are so peculiar that he can hardly THINK he has erred.

Now the GREAT DISCOVERY he boasts of by Fire is, that the PILL whitens COPPER and consequently there must be *Arsenick* in it; which indeed would have some shew of P R O O F in it, if *Arsenick* was the only Preparation in the World that would whiten COPPER, but it happens very unluckily for our Author that it is well known to all Professed C H Y M I S T S besides himself, that either GOLD or COPPER held in the Fumes which fly from Mercurial Preparations, immediately receives a whiteness, as may easily be tried, and will appear in the following EXPERIMENT, notwithstanding what our A U T H O R says in *p. 109.* that there is no other Matter which is at all likely to whiten COPPER, except *Mercury* Snblimate.

Take therefore one of *W—d's* and one of the Pills given with this Book, and compounded of *Glass* of *Antimony* and *Cinnabar* of *Antimony* and amassed with *Gum Tragacanth* and

put in different Places, as before, upon  
avred hot Iron, and you will see each of  
them emit a fine Blue Flame with some  
Smoak, which lasts 'till the Sulphur and  
Quicksilver be both entirely consumed,  
and there will remain upon the Iron,  
in each Place, the *Stribium*, or *Glass* of  
*Antimony*, as plain and apparent as  
when it was first made.

Hence then it may be concluded,  
That *Stribium*, or *Glass* of *Antimony*, and  
*Cinnabar* of *Antimony*, are two of the  
Ingredients in this Gentleman's Com-  
position, and what is used to hold  
them together can be of no other Sig-  
nification.

But farther, An ingenious Physician  
and Friend of mine, and one capable  
of making *Experiments*, has for his Cu-  
rosity prescribed, tho' in different Quan-  
tities, to different Ages and Consti-  
tutions, (quite foreign to that Gent-  
leman's Practice, of making the same  
Quantity serve all *Ages*, *Sexes*, and *Con-  
stitutions*) and have observed exactly  
the same Operations and Effects  
as from this Gentleman's, when it  
happened to hit the Constitution,



which could not sometimes be avoided, from the great Numbers which have taken it, and which he has pretended to cure. *Stibium*, or *Glass of Antimony*, I find, both by antient and modern Physicians of regular Education to be rejected and thrown out of Practice, and condemned as a rough and unsafe Medicine, which must be rendered yet more so, when one and the same Quantity is used for all *Ages, Sexes* and *Constitutions*; and yet how madly have the People of our Nation of all Ranks and Qualities ran into the Use of this Medicine, only from some *casual* Cures which may have been effected upon some very rough and strong *Constitutions*.

It may be said indeed, that the World was ignorant of the Ingredients contained in the Composition of this Pill; but they could not be ignorant of the Quantity of Matter therein contained, which always appeared to be equally the same, nor of his Inabilities in Physic, because he always declared his own Ignorance; many of our Nobility and Gentry are much  
more

more nice and scrupulous in their Choice of Doctors for their Horses and Dogs, than they have been of late for their Wives, Children, and Servants.

But this Gentleman's Market seems to be almost over, by the scurrillous Reports that are raised to support its Credit; as that the Parliament was about to contract with him for the pretended Secret of his Pill, and that the Decrease of the last Yearly Bills of Mortality was chiefly owing to the Success of his Pill.

Our Seasons for those two or three Years past have proved very healthful, and we have not been visited with malignant and epidemical Fevers, nor has the Small Pox been very raging or mortal amongst us; and because the great God has been thus favourable to us of late, this Emperical Gentleman as is reported, out of his profound Modesty, has assumed to himself that Glory which belongs to God only, and would make us believe, that there is nothing can preserve Life but his Chymical Pill, which none but such as are as ignorant as himself, would  
 ever

ever offer to prescribe, without any distinction, to all alike; besides its fallibility is too apparent to make us believe any such ridiculous and incredible Stories.

As to the Report of the Parliament's Design to purchase his *Bubble*, I am told that they are capable of finding other Uses for their Money, and that if they were disposed to purchase any Thing for the Preservation of Mens Lives, they might lay out their Money to a much greater Advantage, and with more Certainty to answer that End, in a General P — ce for all *Europe*.

But since it is the Duty of every Subject to preserve the Public Treasure, and to prevent Public Expences, as much as in him lies, I beg leave to propose a Method whereby they may without the least Expence save ten Times as many Lives as can be proposed from the Purchase of this Gentleman's pretended Secret, and that is, by taking it into their serious Consideration to regulate the great Mischiefs and Abuses which proceed from the gross Ignorance of these almost innumerable



innumerable licentiated *Empiricks* and *Quacks*, which now swarm in this Nation, as the *Locusts* formerly in the Land of *Egypt*. That they would be pleased to look back into Old Records, and search 'till they find out the Original and the Reasons of the Ecclesiastical Courts being entrusted with that Power, because what might be a good Reason at that Time for granting that Power to those Courts, may now cease to be any Reason at all, and a greater Necessity appear to have it recalled now, and put upon a much better and more safe Foundation. That none be suffered to Practise but such as have been regularly educated and approved by our Universities, or the College of Physicians. By what Authority this Gentleman Practises I do not yet understand, but have Reasons to conclude that its not from any University, (either at Home or Abroad, nor yet from our College of Physicians; it must therefore (if he has any) be either from our Ecclesiastical Courts, or from *Killegrew's* Patent, granted by King *Charles* the

the *Ild.* for licensing *Mountebanks* and travelling *Quacks*. If he has taken upon him to practise upon the pretended *inherent Birth-right* (as its called) in being the *Seventh Son* of a *Seventh Son*, or by pretending a *Public Charity*, or the universal Good of Mankind, whatever he thinks of it now, he may have Reasons to *repent* of it hereafter.

The frequent *Miscarriages* which must necessarily attend the *hazardous Practices* of these *conceited* Impostors; the often bringing slight *Distempers*, by the Application of their Remedies into dangerous and mortal Diseases, might (one would think) be a sufficient Caution to all sober Men, to be wary how they dote, either upon Notions they understand not, or Prescriptions which cannot safely be relied upon (considering Credulity is, in no Art, of so dangerous Consequence as in Physic) so much as to reject all *Maxims* and Remedies in Physic, established by the long and *infallible Experience* of regular and judicious Physicians, for those which are recommended, either by the Inadvertency or willful Mistake

Mistake of undiscerning or deceitful  
Impostors.

It is a Maxim amongst *Empiricks* and  
*Quacks*, that whilst there is *Ignorance*  
and *Covetousness* in the World they stand  
a good Chance for *Business*; and whilst  
they are *licenced* and *permitted* to prac-  
tise, irretrievable Miscarriages will ne-  
cessarily ensue; it must certainly there-  
fore be worthy the Care of our Legisla-  
ture to consult how and by what Means  
they may entirely be suppress'd; for  
it remains as yet an undetermined  
Question, which of the *Venders* of *Popu-  
lar Poison* are most Injurious to our  
Commonwealth, *Quacks*, or — ?

The vast Advantages which have  
accrued of late Years, from the great  
Discoveries and Improvements which  
have been made by the indefatigable  
Industry and admired Ingenuity of our  
*English* Physicians, seem to merit a  
much higher Regard from the Public;  
more especially if it be consider'd how  
closely they confine themselves to  
the Studies of their own Profession;  
without interfering, or stealing into any  
other Business; nay, even that of Re-  
ligion itself, least Offences should come.



On the other Hand, innumerable are the *Usurpers* in the Profession and Practice of Physic, as tho' Learning and Experience were subservient to the Call of the *Ignorant* and *Unfortunate*, and what has cost regular Physicians more than Twenty Years hard Study and Labour, and perhaps a much longer Experience, was attainable by them in less than the Space of so many Months; and that as ingenious Physicians, who can rationally account for every Step and Variation of their Practice, are scarce able to get their Bread, while they have Teeth to eat it; these illiterate Deceivers must acquire a very large Fortune in a very few Years, by their affected Ignorance, and their impudent Pretensions to Secrets and Revelations which are not at all in Nature. *Varandaeus*, a German Physician, writes concerning Secrets, in an Epistle to our Ingenious and Learned Dr *Primrose*, That those Remedies are the Best which are no Secrets, but best known as being confirmed by more certain Experience. I confess (says that eminent Physician) that all the Virtues of Simples are not yet perfectly known

as yet, many lie hid. If therefore any Man hath found out by Experience, the Virtues of some Simple Medicament not yet known, that increase of Art is to be commended and deserves to be called a Secret.

If we consider Man to be as *mechanically* made as a Watch or a Clock, and that his Motions (the Regularity of which we call Health) are performed by Springs, Wheels and Engines, not much differing (except as to the Curiousness of their Work) from those Pieces of Clock-work, which are now so commonly to be seen at every Puppet-play, we shall presently be convinced of the Impossibility of one Remedy effecting a Cure upon all Diseases; for let us suppose for Example, that a Clock or a Watch has lost its Motion by being kept for some Time in a damp Place, a Person well-skilled in that Art, and who knows all the Parts, Wheels and Springs of a Watch, can easily prescribe a Remedy, and perhaps may tell by way of Secret to some bold enterprizing Fellow, that by putting this Watch into his warm Pocket, it would again recover its Motion; this answering the End, he immediately

immediately sets up for a Mender of Watches, and perhaps may happen of two or three in the same Condition with his own, and have admitted of the same Cure. From hence he calls this an infallible Remedy; and if a Watch be brought with a Spring or a Wheel broke, he has no other Way to mend it but by putting it into his Pocket, which perhaps he may do for Seven or Eight Days together, and the Watch never the better, and so he returns it as bad as it came; the Application is so obvious, that I need not write it down. And if in this Case the whole *Bench of Bishops*, and all our *Representatives* in Parliament *Nemine Contradicente*, were to tell me that the Spring or Wheel of a Watch could be mended by this Method only, I hope I should be excused if I differed from them.

But supposing that this great Absurdity should be admitted, that one Remedy could answer to all Diseases, another equally as great immediately follows, and that is, that the same Quantity should answer to all Constitutions, Ages and Sexes. I could heartily wish that all those Persons (be who they will)



will) that can recommend, or even Countenance such a Remedy, were for their own Conviction, be fed only for one Month, with the same Food, both as to Quantiry and Quality, as is usual to give to a Child of Three Years Old, and then favour us with their Opinion again.

But to conclude, That a Disease must be known before it can be cured, is so generally receiv'd a *Maxim*, that it is become *proverbial*, that the Knowledge of the Disease is half the Cure; that the Learned Physicians have always been and are now, the only Improvers of the Art of Physic; that Skill in *Anatomy* is most necessary to the Understanding and Cure of Diseases; that Chymical Medicines, by the Confession of the best Chymists, are to be used with Method and great Caution, and are dangerous in the Hands of unskillful Men; of which, besides the innumerable Instances we have had of late, we have a remarkable one left us by the famous Dr Cox, Physician in Ordinary to King Charles the Hd, who tells us, that he had been called to a *Citizen* of London, who upon taking a Vomit from an *Empirick* and a *Hypercatharsis* ensuing upon it, fell into dismal *Convulsions*, in which

which, in despite of the most proper Remedies he died. The Bragging therefore, of *Empiricks* and *Pseudo-Chymists*, is not at all to be credited, since they are neither able to Experience (thro' their Ignorance both of *Anatomy* and *Physic*) old Medicines, or invent new; the Liberty therefore of Practising *Physic* wherewith they are now indulg'd, tends as little to the Good of Mankind, as a Pestilence or War, or what is most destructive, to the Safety and Being of Human Nature.

Your's, &c.

*Philo-Chymicus.*

### POSTSCRIPT.

I Have omitted to prescribe the exact Quantities of the Ingredients, lest they should fall into other Ignorant Hands, and be Practised to the Detriment of the Public; and the Reason which induced me to expose this unjustifiable Way of Practice, is to shew what great *Hazards* Men run of their Lives in taking Chymical Remedies at the Hands of *Empiricks*, which must be so much the Greater, by how much the Preparations they Use, are of more Force and Virtue.

F I N I S.